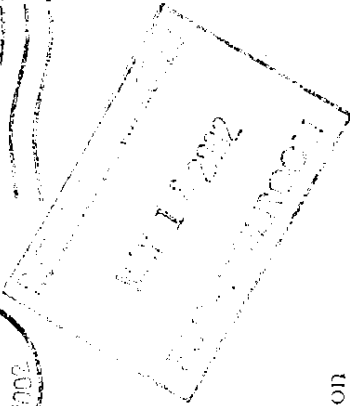
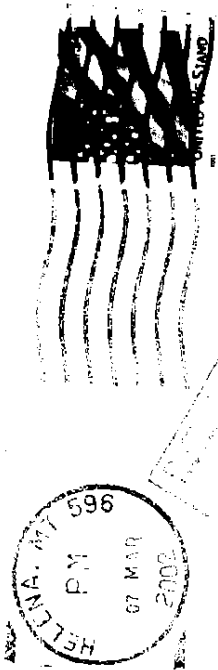
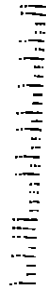


7MB Dictat no. 01-348

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Confirmed  
JUN 04 2002  
Distribution Center

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED 0

Bill Gallagher  
629 Helena Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601

12-M 8240



01-348  
**BILL GALLAGHER**

629 Helena Ave Helena MT 59601  
432-8988

*...no beside you Working for ,P-*

January 15, 2002

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Max

I wanted to take just a moment to correspond with you on an issue important to the Farm Bureau and to rural America. That issue is the proposed merger of DirecTV and EchoStar.

Many people in rural areas are dependent upon satellite technology for both television and high-speed internet access. This merger would provide the flexibility the merged company the increased capacity that will allow it to do a number of important things.

The merged company would be better able to compete in urban areas with the cable companies and with their national pricing policy (everyone gets the same price) that means lower prices for rural consumers. In addition, the merged company has committed to providing local broadcast television in every state including Montana (we currently get *SO* local stations on our satellite services) and will end the current duplication of literally hundred.; of channels, thus making available satellite spectrum for increased broadband services.

I hope you will support this merger that has so much potential to help so many individuals, families and businesses in rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Gallagher'.

W A (Bill) Gallagher CLU, ChFC

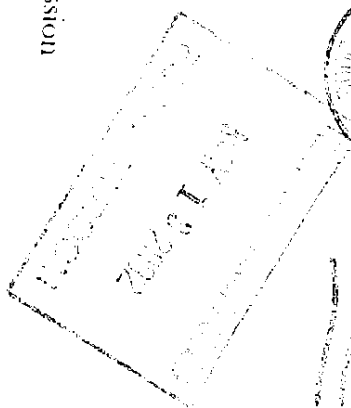
CC: FCC, Dept. Justice

Robert Henkel  
PO Box 1142  
Helena, MT 59624

02-7482424

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Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554



ms

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# SAGE ADVERTISING

PO BOX 1142 • HELENA, MT 59624 • PHONE (406) 431-1031 • FAX (406) 443-1765

February 18, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I have spent my career providing Montana's finest marketing and advertising services to my clients. From auto dealers to Governor's our clients have always known we do everything we can to gain them the maximum exposure for the most reasonable price.

That said, because of the current structure of the satellite industry, tens of thousands of households remain unreachable without purchasing advertising in markets where costs are prohibitive. **As** you know, not a single Montana media market is available on either DirecTV or Dish Network.

Finally though, there is hope on the horizon: The proposed merger of these two companies will make at least one media market in every state available to satellite viewers in that state.

Here in Montana, that means 131,000 new households my clients and I can access for purposes of creating economic development in our state, and that's truly good news.

At the same time, imagine the benefit to consumers who will now have a choice between cable and satellite television, both of which will now have Montana news, sports and weather.

This *is* a merger that makes good sense and I hope you and your fellow Commissioners will consider these advantages as you deliberate on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert A. Benkel*